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Chances Dim For a Bigger CIA Watchdog

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WASHINGTON — It does not look as though Bill Fulbright and Gene McCarthy are going to have any better success than Mike Mansfield did 10 years ago.

Sen. Mansfield (D.-Mont.), before he had become the Senate majority leader, tried in 1956 to win Senate approval for a tighter system of control of the Central Intelligence Agency.

He proposed the establishment of a joint "watchdog committee" composed of 12 members from the Senate and House. The proposal was defeated, 59 to 27.

Now, Senators Eugene McCarthy (D.-Minn.) and J. W. Fulbright (D.-Ark.), are making an attempt to broaden the Senate group that loosely supervises the CIA.

A resolution by McCarthy, adopted last week by 14 of the 19 members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, would provide for the addition of three members of this committee to the CIA supervisory group.

FULBRIGHT, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, postponed a showdown Tuesday when he announced he would wait until June 1 before filing his resolution.

If it comes to a vote, however, the resolution almost certainly will be defeated by the same powerful members of the Senate Establishment who beat the Mansfield move.

The leader of the opposition forces, Sen. Richard Russell (D.-Ga.), is chairman of the little Senate group that watches over the CIA. Its membership includes representatives from the Armed Services Committee, which he chairs, and the Appropriations Committee.

Russell also is one of the most influential members of the Senate. He will be backed up, if there is a vote, by a large number of Democrats and Republicans.

RUSSELL IS asserting a "grandfather" right to retaining the setup as it is. This is on the grounds that it was his Armed Services Committee that considered the legislation in 1947 for the National Security Act—and it was this act that, among other things,

created the Central Intelligence Agency.

Unless he has been "derelict in duty," he says, there is no justification for any other committee to "muscle in on the jurisdiction of the Armed Services Committee, insofar as it pertains to the CIA."

Some of Russell's supporters contend, in addition, that it would be unwise to entrust anyone from the Foreign Relations Committee with any information about the CIA. Sen. Frank Lausche (D.-Ohio), for example, contends that this committee is always "leaking information to the press."

Fulbright, McCarthy and their supporters maintain that a principle is involved. The Foreign Relations Committee should be entitled to help supervise the CIA, they declare, in view of the vast influence it exerts on American's foreign policy.